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polyethyl ne terephthalat (PET), alone or in combination with lay rs of other materials. The container of the '105 patent, which is taught as being well-suited for the packaging of beverages in 64 oz. sizes, has a generally right circular cylindrical body portion with a circumferentially spaced apart and generally opposed pair of indented panels that flex inwardly, upon the cooling of a filled and capped bottle, to accommodate thermal contraction of the packaged beverage. The indented panels of the '105 patent, which do not form an opening that extends through the container, also serve to provide spaced surfaces that can be grasped between the thumb and fingers of a hand of a user to permit the user to handle the container. Unfortunately, for a large size container of the type taught by the '105 patent, the spacing between the gripping panels, which extend inwardly substantially to the vertical centerline of the container, cannot be substantially reduced below about 3.5 in. (about 90mm), which is about 55-70% of the major lateral extent of the container. Individuals with smaller hands may have difficulty in handling a filled container with a gripping feature with such spacing between surfaces to be gripped.

Page 2, please correct the paragraph beginning at line 4 to read as follows:

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According to the present invention, there is provided a hot-fillable plastic container for packaging hot-filled beverages in large sizes, the container having an integral handle or hand-gripping feature in which the spacing between opposed gripping surfaces is sufficiently small, for example, no more than about 2.5 in. (about 65mm), which is approximately 45% of the major lateral extent of the container, to be

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grippable by people with small hands. In a first embodim nt of th pr sent invention, the hand grip featur is in a non-circular half portion of a body portion of a container whose other half portion is otherwise generally circular in cross section. In this embodiment, the cross section of the body is generally oval-shaped, and the gripping feature, which stops somewhat short of the vertical centerline of the container, is in a smaller diameter end of the container, and, consequently, may be held to a dimension that does not exceed 2.5 in. for easy gripping by a consumer with small hands.

Page 6, please correct the paragraph beginning at line 25, which extends to page 7, line 3, to read as follows:

A3

As is shown in Fig. 8, the indented grip panels 22b, 22c are generally concave in configuration, and do not extend to a vertical centerline of the container 20. Further, each of the indented grip panels has a depth D of approximately 0.250 inch, which is substantially less than the depth of a 0.500 – 0.900 inch that is characteristic of prior art, hot-fillable, integral handle or grip plastic containers. With such a gripping panel depth, the container 20 has a grip to major lateral extent (width) ratio, as measured between the depths of the opposed gripping panels 22b, 22c, of approximately 45%, which is substantially less than that achievable with other known large, hot-fillable, grippable thermoplastic containers.

Page 7, pleas correct the paragraph beginning at lin 4, to read as follows:

A container according to the embodiment of Figs. 9 – 16 is indicated generally by reference numeral 40 in the drawing. The container 20 is made up of a body portion 42 that extends for a substantial vertical distance, for example about 4-1/4 in. for a container 40 designed for the packaging of 64 oz. of a liquid, and a body portion 42 with a slightly enlarged base portion 44 immediately therebelow. The base portion 44 has a vertical extent of about 7/8 in. for a 64 oz. container 40, and serves to protect a label (not shown) that may be applied to the exterior of the body portion 42 from contact with adjacent like containers 40 during shipping and on a retail shelf. The container 40 has a closure-receiving, externally helically extending threaded finish portion 46 for receiving an internally helically threaded closure (not shown) after the container 40 is filled with a beverage or other liquid to be packaged therein. Of course, other types of closures, for example lug-style closures, can be used to close a container 40 after filling, in which case the finish portion 46 will be provided with an external configuration other than that of a helical thread for receiving such a closure. In any case, except as hereinafter described, the container 40 is provided with a generally frusto-pyramidal neck portion 48 between the body portion 42 and the finish portion 46, the neck portion 48 having an indented portion 48b at the bottom thereof, immediately above the body portion 42, with a base portion 48c that has a slightly greater lateral extent than the body portion 42, again, to protect a label applied to the body portion 42 from

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damag as a result of contact with adjacent like filled containers 40. In that regard, the overall h ight of a 64 oz. container 40, including a height of the finish portion 46 of about 11/16 in. for a 43mm threaded closure, is about 10-3/8 in., assuming a maximum diameter of the base portion 44, which is circular in configuration, of about 4-5/8 in.

Page 8, please correct the paragraph beginning at line 8 to read as follows:

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While the body portion 42 of the container 40 may be, and preferably is, generally circular in cross-section, the neck portion 48 of the container 40 is made non-circular in cross-section by the provision of spaced-apart, opposed, inwardly projecting gripping panels 48d, 48e. The gripping panels 48d, 48e, which need not extend to the centerline of the container 40, and need not be spaced apart by even as much as 2-1/2 in., serve to permit grasping of the container 40 between the thumb and fingers of a consumer or other person, even a person with small hands. As shown in Fig. 16, the gripping panels 48d, 48e are concave in configuration with a depth of approximately 0.400 inch. With such a gripping panel depth, the container 40 has a grip to major lateral extent (diameter) ratio, as measured between the depths of the opposed gripping panels 48d, 48e, of 41%.

Page 8, please correct the paragraph beginning at line 20 to read as follows:

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As thus far described, either a container 20 or a container 40 may be blow molded in a single piece from a molded preform or parison of a suitable thermoplastic material. Co-extruded multi-layer